

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
May 11, 2009

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2009 regular meeting. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Duffy who abstained. Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2009 Special meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to add two items under New Business: Item 13a, a resolution to appoint the firm of Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C. as the new auditors for the Town, and Item 13b, the scheduling of a public hearing for the Fire Marshal fee ordinance. Both motions passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance for Obtaining Goods and Services

Mayor Paterson called the public hearing to order and asked the Town Clerk to read the legal notice.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, questioned the procedure asking how the Council could hold a public hearing on an ordinance to which changes have been made.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, spoke in support of the ordinance especially the inclusion of a current billing clause.

The hearing was close at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Clouette seconded a motion to move Item 7, Proclamation in Recognition of Emergency Services and Public Safety Personnel, as the next item of business. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, questioned an advertisement he received which contained endorsements from Town and Board of Education staff members. He also asked the status of union negotiations and asked the Council to conduct a referendum or poll on the Storrs Center Project.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Report attached.

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Town Manager Matt Hart asked for Council approval to distribute two surveys at the town meeting. One survey was requested by Council and is in the back of the abbreviated budget document. The other survey was drafted by the Communication Advisory Committee and will be distributed by members of that Committee.

Ms. Koehn moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to add the issue to the agenda as item 13c. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Koehn requested additional information on the incident reported at the April 27, 2009 meeting regarding a break in at a local home. Ms. Koehn requested additional details on the communications between Troop C and the resident state trooper. The Town Manager will report back.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. Ordinance for Obtaining Goods and Services

Mr. Clouette, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved to recommit the proposed Ordinance for Obtaining Goods and Services to the Finance Committee for additional review.

Mr. Nesbitt will submit his updated comments to members.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Community/Campus Relations

Mayor Paterson reported that the Town/ University Relations Committee has been charged with conducting a thorough review of Spring Weekend and will report their findings to the UConn Board of Trustees.

Ms. Koehn reported the Community Quality of Life Committee continues to review the material presented in the sustainability vision points of the Strategic Plan and to discuss the communication difficulties between Troop C and the state police assigned to Mansfield. Ms. Koehn also reported that PZC representative Michael Beal has resigned from the Committee.

4. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Mr. Nesbitt announced the Four Corner Sewer Advisory Committee would be holding its public information session on June 9th. Mr. Nesbitt outlined the publicity efforts being made to make sure citizens are aware of the meeting.

5. Regionalism

Council members discussed how to best approach the idea of talking with other policy makers regarding potential opportunities for regional approaches to issues such as economic development, public safety and water supplies. The Town Manager is currently engaged in these discussions with a number of entities. Members also discussed the possibility of restructuring the charges to existing committees to include issues of regionalization. Members raised concerns about staffing and Council member's availability for an additional committee. Members agreed that any committee should be ad hoc and the discussions informal.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to table the discussion in order to seek advice regarding the Freedom of Information requirements of an ad hoc committee consisting of the Town Manager and two Council members.

Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schaefer.

6. WINCOG Regional Economic Development Plan

Mr. Nesbitt moved the Town Manager be directed to advise AKRF, consultants for the WINCOG Regional Economic Development Plan, that the focus of the marketing kit will be a general promotion of Mansfield with a focus on all areas in the Plan of Conservation and Development that are identified for economic development.

Seconded by Mr. Schaefer the motion passed with Ms. Koehn abstaining.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

7. Proclamation in Recognition of Emergency Services and Public Safety Personnel

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective May 11, 2009, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Recognition of Emergency Services and Public Safety Personnel.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Paterson and the Council were joined by Fire Marshal John Jackman, Firefighter George Thompson III, Chief Dave Dagon and Deputy Chief William "Chip" Jordan who collectively accepted the proclamation on behalf of the firefighters.

8. Financial Statements Dated March 31, 2009

Mr. Clouette moved, effective May 11, 2009, to accept the Financial Statements

Dated March 31, 2009.

Mr. Clouette commented that despite the loss in interest and permit revenues, the spending freeze and not filling existing vacancies will allow the Town to end the fiscal year on budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Environmental Impact Evaluation: Two Proposed UConn Academic Buildings

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective May 11, 2009, to authorize the Mayor to co-endorse with the Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman comments on the April 2009 draft Environmental Impact Evaluation of two proposed UConn academic buildings. The Town comments shall emphasize the need to implementation proposed mitigation measures and restrict construction traffic to state roads.

Members discussed the importance of encouraging the use of alternatives to reduce stormwater runoff from the buildings to the Eagleville Brook and the importance of maintaining the stormwater system.

As a friendly amendment the Council agree to add, "...and as discussed at the May 11, 2009 meeting," to the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following motion: Resolved, that Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, be authorized to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and to execute any necessary agreements with that agency, to receive funding to support the provision of fire protection and emergency services within the Town of Mansfield.

Motion passed unanimously.

11. Contract with Greater Hartford Transit District Contract for Design and Engineering of Intermodal Center

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, is hereby authorized to execute the Assistance Agreement between the Greater Hartford Transit District and the Town of Mansfield to provide grant administration services for the Federal Transit Administration grant of \$490,000 for the Town of Mansfield for design and engineering of the Storrs Center intermodal center.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

12. Agreement with DECD for Parking Garage/Transit Hub

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-66 (c) of the Connecticut Legislature, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Mansfield make an application to the State for \$10,000,000 in order to undertake Parking Garage/Transit Hub and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD;

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for state assistance, as imposed by Section 4-66 (c) of the Connecticut General Statutes;
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Mansfield in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 is hereby approved and that the Town Manager is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Mansfield.
3. That it adopts or has adopted as its policy to support the following nondiscrimination agreements and warranties provided in subsection (a) (1) of Connecticut General Statutes sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a, respectively, as amended by Public Acts 07-142 and 07-245, and for which purposes the "contractor" is the Town of Mansfield and "contract" is said Assistance Agreement:

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut. The contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color. Religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation, or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved.

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation.

Motion passed unanimously.

13. Uniform Term of Service and Reorganization for Various Advisory Committees

Ms. Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Committees moved the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: The terms of office for the Agricultural Committee, the Arts Advisory Committee, the CATV Advisory Committee, the Town Council Sustainability Committee, the Mansfield Advocates for Children Council, the University-Town Relations Committee and the Youth Advisory Committee be established as three (3) year terms for all citizen members. The Committee on Committees will establish the initial terms of 1,2 or 3 years for the current members of each Board, Council or Committee. Subsequent appointments for all citizen members will be three (3) year terms. Members appointed by specifically designated institutions and Town Staff will be exempt from the term designations.

RESOLVED: The ADA Grievance Committee as established by the Town Council on November 23, 1992 shall be dissolved, and further that pursuant to the US Department Justice ADA Guidelines, the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities shall be designated as the ADA Grievance Committee for the Town of Mansfield.

RESOLVED: The Fire and Emergency Services Committee and the Wellness Center Advisory Board shall be dissolved effective immediately.

Motion passed unanimously.

13a.Appointment of Auditors for the Town

Mr. Clouette moved, effective May 11, 2009, the appointment of Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C. as the auditors for the Town for Fiscal Year 2008/2009 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

13b.Public Hearing Regarding An Ordinance Establishing Fee Schedule for Fire Marshal Services

Mr. Clouette moved, effective May 11, 2009, to schedule a public hearing on the proposed Ordinance Establishing Fee Schedule for Fire Marshal Services for 7:30 p.m. at the May 26, 2009 Town Council meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

13c.Surveys for Distribution at the Annual Town Meeting

By consensus the Council agreed to authorize the Town Manager to inform the Communication Advisory Committee to proceed with the survey at the annual town meeting.

Council members did note that this survey would only reflect the opinions of those present at the meeting.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No Reports

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Mr. Haddad reported the Personnel Committee would be meeting to begin the process for the Town Manager's evaluation. It was suggested that Council members let the Committee know their opinions of the process.

Ms. Duffy reported the Committee on Committees would like to recommend to the Council that new committees be invited to appear before the Council to provide an update and opportunity for discussion. She suggested that the Communication Advisory Committee be invited to a future Council meeting to discuss their first year as a Committee.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- No Reports

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 14. S. Clark re: Mansfield Town Library hours and staffing levels
- 15. Friends of the Mansfield Library re: Budget
- 16. Council Policy on Communicating of Mansfield Positions
- 17. M. Hart re: Appointment to Mansfield Library Board
- 18. Governor Rell: Army Corps to Invest \$5.6 Million in Connecticut Flood Control Projects
- 19. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04-22-09
- 20. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04-24-09
- 21. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04-30-09
- 22. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 05-01-09
- 23. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 05-04-09
- 24. Chronicle "Local lawmakers give state budget insight" – 04-29-09
- 25. Chronicle "Mansfield has a new finance head" – 04-28-09
- 26. Chronicle "Partnership confident Storrs Center can weather..." – 05-04-09

- 27. Chronicle "Reduced town budget presented to voters" – 04-24-09
- 28. Chronicle "Town pleased after spring bash" – 04-28-09
- 29. Daily Campus "State media to blame for attracting outsiders,..." – 04-28-09
- 30. Mansfield Today "Sewage leak at Goodwin School addressed..." – 04-28-09
- 31. Mansfield Today "Troubled start for UConn Spring Weekend" –4-25-09

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, suggested the anticipated informational session scheduled with Tom Hennick from the Freedom of Information Commission be open to the public.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, agreed with Mr. Hossack.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Mr. Schaefer requested the email from Martha Fraenkel regarding her suggestions to deal with excessive trash left behind by students be referred to the Town/University Relations Committee.

Ms. Koehn suggested a discussion on the Council Policy on Communicating of Mansfield Positions and its inclusion in the Index of Council Policy Statements. She also suggested the Council discuss the role of the Mayor in communicating the policies of the Council

Mr. Haddad requested an update from staff regarding their experiences with the recently enacted Freedom of Information policy, including the amount of revenue received, the tracking process and the numbers and nature of the requests.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Not Required

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed by all.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk